

**Economic and Social Council**

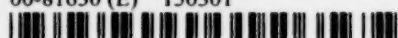
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1. Centro de Studios Europeos

Special consultative status granted in 1996

The Centro de Studios Europeos (CEE) is a non-profit organization whose major aim is to work for the mutual understanding between Cuba and Europe. Its activities include research, publications, and the organization of conferences, seminars and workshops, as a framework for debating the main economic, social and political problems facing Europe and its international interaction with other geographical areas, particularly Latin America and Cuba.

CEE contributes to the development of a community of professionals interested in a social science approach to contemporary Europe and to its international relations by promoting relations between the organizations of the European and Cuban civil societies. CEE also promotes and supports the participation of the organizations of Cuban civil society in conferences, seminars and workshops organized by the United Nations and other organizations sharing the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Participation in conferences and international meetings organized by the United Nations

CEE representatives participated in the following meetings:

(a) National Preparatory Committee for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the NGO Forum held before and during the Conference (Istanbul, May 1996). CEE organized a seminar on the present Cuban reality from an NGO perspective and attended meetings of the Committee in charge of preparing an NGO position and of various workshops;

(b) National Preparatory Committee for the World Food Summit (Rome, 1996). CEE attended the FAO/NGO consultation held at FAO headquarters in September 1996 and the NGO Forum held in Rome during the Conference;

(c) Fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (1997, 1998 and 1999). CEE made oral contributions on various items and made a written contribution on Item 10 in 1998 (E/CN.4/1998/NGO/12);

(d) NGO Forum at the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights (Ottawa, June 1998);

(e) Annual meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, 1997 and 1998);

(f) Meetings of the national preparatory committees for the follow-up to the World Social Summit (1999) and the Millennium Summit (2000), also contributing to them with written papers;

(g) International seminar on "Humanitarian international rights", organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the National Union of Lawyers of Cuba and the Cuban Red Cross (9-11 March 1998), presenting a paper on "Armed conflicts, international humanitarian rights and NGOs". It was later published.

CEE also co-sponsored, on 24-25 September 1998, an international seminar/workshop on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights. From 25 to 29 May 1999 CEE representatives participated in Havana in a seminar on the legal protection of the refugees and other population groups.

Other activities to promote cooperation for development

CEE coordinated the activities of the Preparatory Committee of Cuban non-governmental organizations which participated in the Conference on Cooperation with Cuba, held at the European Parliament's headquarters (Brussels, March 1996). The European Commission co-sponsored the Conference, and 48 non-governmental organizations from 12 European countries attended. CEE also contributed two papers: "NGOs in Cuba" and "The role of NGOs in human resource capacity-building".

CEE organized the International Conferences on European Studies in Cuba, in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999, to promote cooperation and an exchange of views between Cuban and European academic institutions on topics relevant to the United Nations. They have focused on conflict trends and resolution, international cooperation for development, integration and globalization. Scholars and specialists from institutions worldwide have attended the conferences.

The CEE coordinated the activities of the Cuban Preparatory Committee for the Second International Meeting on Cooperation with Cuba (Havana, 7-10 December 1999), with the sponsorship of the European Commission. Representatives from more than 70 European non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as well as 17 from Latin America and the Caribbean, four from North America and 50 from Cuba.

CEE has uninterruptedly published its monthly bulleting *Mensaje de Cuba*, in Spanish and English. It is the only publication in the country reflecting the national and international activities of Cuban non-governmental organizations.

2. European Federation of Older Students at Universities

Special consultative status granted in 1996

The main mission of the European Federation of Older Students at Universities (EFOS) is to support education for older people at the highest level possible, preferably at universities in Europe. Actual members come from the following European countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Germany, Poland and Slovakia.

EFOS defends the basic human right of education which should be available to all without discrimination of age. It sees education as a fundamental request for social development. Elderly or/and retired persons should not be excluded from this process. The status of older persons is different in the various European countries. We therefore meet regularly and keep close contact to find out and pass on the best ways to promote our aims in close cooperation with the younger generation of students.

EFOS participates in various United Nations bodies. It is a member of the NGO Committee on Ageing (Vienna), of which the vice-chair is the current president of EFOS. Members of the Committee meet from 5 to 7 times a year. In

recent years, the work of the Committee has been shaped by the International Year of Older Persons, 1999 — its preparation, celebration and follow-up.

The common concern of EFOS and the Committee on Ageing is to foster the participation of Eastern European countries such as Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland, in projects in the field of ageing and education.

EFOS cooperates with the European Federation of the Elderly (EURAG) and cooperates with the Association internationale des universités du troisième âge (AIUTA).

In 1998 and 1999 EFOS participated in task forces set up by the Austrian National Committee for the International Year of Older Persons.

Currently EFOS is working on preparations for the second World Assembly on Ageing to take place in April 2002. It is also preparing for the International Year of Volunteers, since EFOS staff are exclusively volunteers.

We would like to affirm our will as a non-governmental organization to cooperate fully for the needs and aspirations of societies for all ages.

3. Fraternite Notre Dame

Special consultative status granted in 1996

Aims and purposes of the organization

Fraternite Notre Dame is a traditional Catholic, religious and humanitarian organization which helps persons in need, with no distinction of race, class, sex or belief and which works in the United States (New York, Chicago), Africa (Niger, Cameroon), Asia (Mongolia, China), and Europe (France). It runs soup kitchens, dispensaries, hospitals, schools and orphanages, offers help to the sick with AIDS, arranges visits to prisoners and the elderly, and offers aid to countries in distress.

Fraternite Notre Dame has been associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations since January 1994. It has had Correspondent status with UNICEF since March 1996, has been a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) since August 1997 and is a member of the Committee of Religious NGOS at the United Nations.

Fraternite Notre Dame's members attempt to be instruments of peace and unity and sow the charity of Christ to all those who suffer either in their hearts or in their bodies.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and conferences and in other United Nations meetings

Fraternite Notre Dame follows the work of the Council and other United Nations bodies, especially in New York and in Geneva.

In New York it attended the following sessions of Council bodies:

- (a) 8-10 February 1999: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, twenty-first session;
- (b) 9-19 February 1999: Commission for Social Development, thirtieth session;
- (c) 22-23 February 1999: NGO Values Caucus: Consultative Council of the Millennium Forum;
- (d) 15-18 March 1999: Committee on Human Rights;
- (e) 1-19 March 1999: Commission on the Status of Women, forty-third session;
- (f) 6 April 1999: UNESCO: "Year of Thanksgiving, Year for a Cultural Peace: 2000";
- (g) 12-30 April 1999: Commission on Sustainable Development, seventh session;
- (h) 10-14 May 1999: Commission on Human Rights;
- (i) 1-18 June 1999: Committee on NGOs;
- (j) 7-25 June 1999: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, twenty-first session;
- (k) 15-17 September 1999: Fifty-second Annual Conference for NGOs associated with the Department of Public Information;
- (l) 17 November 1999: Conference on Malaria.

In Geneva, Fraternite Notre Dame attended the following:

- (a) 1-31 August 1997: Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-ninth session, oral intervention and presentation of a text to the Subcommission;
- (b) November 1997: Twentieth General Assembly of CONGO;
- (c) 2 March to 20 April 1998: Commission on Human Rights, fifty-fourth session; intervention on children's rights;
- (d) 3-28 August 1998: Commission on Human Rights, fiftieth session; on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights;
- (e) 22-30 April 1999: Commission on Human Rights, fifty-fifth session; statements on religious discrimination.

Fraternite Notre Dame took part in the following international conferences:

- (a) 12-23 February 1996: Preparatory Committee for HABITAT II, in New York;
- (b) 3-14 June 1996: HABITAT II in Istanbul, with presentation of Fraternite Notre Dame's activities, under the theme "A house for all" at the NGO Forum;
- (c) 10-15 October 1999: International Conference organized in Seoul by the non-governmental organizations and the University of Seoul: "Achieving our Vision for the 21st Century".

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

- (a) Cameroon, September 1997: donation from UNICEF of school supplies; November 1997: food donations (oil, rice, pasta, canned fish) from WFP, FAO;
- (b) 1998-1999: consultations with UNESCO and UNICEF for Fraternite Notre Dame school programmes;
- (c) Niger, from December 1996 to 1999: consultation and collaboration with UNICEF and UNDP for feeding programmes, orphanages, care for lepers, requests for mosquito nets;
- (d) Mongolia, from 1996 to 1997, consultations and collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF and WHO for health care programmes in hospitals for the poor and for the feeding programme for homeless people;
- (e) Caribbean, collaboration with UNICEF. In 1996, donation of 500 children's school kits and plywood sheets. In 1997, donation of a water tank of 9,000 gallons. Donation of school books and several tons of food by WFP and FAO in 1996;
- (f) Participation in a seminar on street children, organized by UNESCO;
- (g) 1998/1999: collaboration with the United Nations peacekeeping forces of Argentina which helped to build Fraternite Notre Dame's orphanage in the Port au Prince suburbs and gave food regularly to the orphanage;
- (h) Kosovo, April to June 1999: health support and general support to the refugees in the camps. Work in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR (distribution of children's supplies to orphans and refugees). Health care support in collaboration with the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Topoje, Tirana and Durres.

Other relevant activities

- (a) Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations representatives and mission representatives;
- (b) New York, 1996 and 1997: contact with Ms. Sorensen, Assistant to the Secretary-General for External Relations;
- (c) 7 June 2000: comments and questionnaire of Fraternite Notre Dame to Ms. Sorensen on the report of the Secretary-General on arrangements and practices for the interaction of non-governmental organizations in all activities of the United Nations;
- (d) Numerous contacts in New York with ambassadors or mission representatives to the United Nations, including the missions of Cameroon, Haiti, Mongolia, Niger, South Africa, Benin, Brazil, China, Liberia, Madagascar, Pakistan and Romania. Representatives from these countries asked Fraternite Notre Dame's Superior to open humanitarian centres in their countries for the most destitute. Such plans are under study;
- (e) Fraternite Notre Dame's newsletter is read by many thousands of readers around the world. Many articles are focused on United Nations concerns.

4. Friends World Committee for Consultation

Special consultative status granted in 1948

The central principle of the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), undertaken on behalf of Quakers (the Religious Society of Friends) through its standing offices in New York and Geneva and through other representatives, is facilitation of international activity which promotes a more peaceful and humane world through the United Nations and other international organizations.

FWCC was established in 1937 as a means of communication and combined action for yearly meetings (autonomous groups) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). There are currently some 70 yearly meetings, as well as smaller groups, affiliated to FWCC. During the period under review, new yearly meetings in East Africa and Central America became affiliated. (This report does not cover yearly meeting activities or activities of FWCC which do not have a direct relation to its function as a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council.)

FWCC maintains resident representatives in New York and Geneva and also appoints other representatives to conferences and similar events, as a means of implementing the Quaker religious commitment to peace, social justice and the fullness of humanity. The major sources of income for FWCC continue to be contributions from affiliated bodies, individuals and trusts. The New York office is managed and substantially funded by American Friends Service Committee, an independent Quaker organization in the United States, and the Geneva office, by Quaker Peace and Service, a part of the yearly meeting of Friends in Great Britain. Both offices also receive funding from other Quaker groups, individuals and trusts, and from some Governments. Such funds are received on the understanding that the donors do not direct the activities of the offices.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

Representatives in New York regularly observe meetings of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Security Council, and a number of their subsidiary bodies. Staff in Geneva observe meetings of the Commission on Human Rights, the Conference on Disarmament, the Executive Committee of UNHCR, human rights treaty bodies, the World Trade Organization and its Committee on Trade and the Environment, the International Labour Organization, and a number of their subsidiary bodies. Other representatives regularly attend the meetings of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Special events attended include: (1996) Fourth Review Conference on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention; World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, Singapore; (1999) Preparatory Committee for Financing for Development; World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, Seattle.

FWCC made statements at the following meetings:

- (a) 1996. Fourth Review Conference on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention; Commission on Human Rights, re legal principles for internally displaced persons;
- (b) 1997. Commission on Human Rights, re the prevention of recruitment of children (oral), minimum humanitarian standards, ill-treatment of recruits, the right of conscientious objection (written);
- (c) 1998. Oral statement to the General Debate of the Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); statement to the International Criminal Court Preparatory Committee, re Quaker involvement in ICC issues;
- (d) 1999. Statement to the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Financing for Development, re dialogue with non-governmental organizations.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies, and other relevant activities

The FWCC offices in both Geneva and New York organized a wide variety of colloquia, conferences, lunchtime meetings and other informal meetings for United Nations staff, diplomats and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Some of these were preparatory or offered as a follow-up to the conferences attended. Others related to the following topics which staff have been monitoring and analysing: reform of the United Nations, in particular of the Security Council; the Convention to Combat Desertification; the Commission on Sustainable Development; a global approach to and sustainable management for forests; freshwater; broad issues of peacemaking, peacekeeping and disarmament; conversion of military resources to civilian use; arms control and disarmament (for delegates to the Conference on Disarmament, 1996); codes of conduct in the sale and transfer of conventional arms; anti-personnel landmines; controls on small arms/light weapons; peace-building in war-torn societies; the Nuclear Non-proliferation Preparatory Committee and the Model Nuclear Weapons Disarmament Convention, 1997; trade and the environment; labour rights; the Multilateral Agreement on investment, 1997; child soldiers; conscientious objection; refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum laws; empowerment of women and their advancement in the social and economic fabric of societies; rights of indigenous peoples, in particular the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples; (1998) promoting ILO Core Labour Conventions; codes of conduct and discrimination in export processing zones in Honduras; economic sanctions and their humanitarian effects; financing for development; the place of forest issues in the United Nations; preparation for the Conference on Racism in 2001; civilian roles in peacekeeping and non-military alternatives in humanitarian crises, especially in Africa; control of small arms and light weapons.

A Geneva staff member, Rachel Brett, contributed to the Machel study of the impact of armed conflict on children and addressed a follow-up meeting of the Geneva Humanitarian Working Group. She presented a paper "Minimum humanitarian standards" to a workshop in Cape Town and a seminar on International Humanitarian Law (1996), and helped to organize and made presentations to a

UNICEF/NGO workshop and symposium on child soldiers in Africa, in Cape Town, which produced the Cape Town Principles and Best Practice on the prevention of recruitment, demobilization and social reintegration of child soldiers. She drafted an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, relating to the minimum age for recruitment. The work on child soldiers has been published as *Children: The Invisible Soldiers* (Rachel Brett and Margart McCallin; Radda Barnen, 1996). The New York office is involved in a study of the demobilization of adolescent girl soldiers.

Major residential, unofficial consultations with diplomats, secretariat staff and others were held on Security Council reform (1998), and small arms (1998). The Quaker Forest Colloquium III was held in 1999.

Visits to New York and Geneva, including meetings with United Nations staff, diplomats and non-governmental organizations, were arranged for Quakers and their contacts who have recent experience of various regions of interest, including Chechnya, Honduras, Angola, Colombia and the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Both FWCC offices produce newsletters, reports, briefing papers and booklets for circulation to United Nations staff, diplomats, Quakers, academics and other concerned persons and bodies. Reports on the work are published in Quaker and other periodicals, and staff regularly travel to interpret their work and that of the United Nations to Quaker groups and other groups. Young people become familiar with United Nations procedures and issues through the intern programme at both offices, the regular summer school in Geneva, and the developing summer school in New York. A joint web site links the New York and Geneva offices and serves as a growing source of information for constituents.

5. International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates

Special consultative status granted in 1952

Aim and objects

The aim of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (formerly the International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates) is to promote and encourage the establishment of youth and family justice systems which protect the universal principles of dignity and human rights of children and families. The main objects of the Association are to establish links between judges, magistrates and specialists from all over the world who are attached to a judicial authority, concerned with the protection of youth and the family; to examine legislation designed for the protection of youth and the family and to study, at the international level, all problems raised by the functioning of judicial authorities and bodies in this field; to ensure the continuance of the national and international principles governing those authorities and to make them more widely known.

Membership

The Association's membership is drawn from around the world. At the time of the previous report, the bulk of the members were drawn from Europe. This is no longer the case. Membership is drawn from all five continents, and the majority of members are non-European. The national members are Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland, Taiwan, Province of China, Tunisia and United States of America. National members are registered as single entities and are not required to provide a breakdown of their membership.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Two Association members worked with the United Nations Centre on Human Rights in Geneva in the preparation of a training manual on human rights for judges and lawyers and took responsibility for a chapter on the administration of juvenile justice.

The Association has appointed representatives to the United Nations in Vienna, Geneva and New York, and to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and The Hague. These members represent the Association at relevant meetings, seminars and conferences. The Geneva representative chairs the Group of NGOs on the Rights of the Child and is involved in conferences and seminars in many parts of the developing world.

The Deputy Secretary-General chairs the Alliance of Vienna-based NGOs. She has worked with the Centre for International Crime Prevention at the United Nations Office in Vienna in the drafting of a model law on juvenile justice. She was recently nominated international judge for penal affairs in Kosovo by UNMIK.

The President of the Association was invited to Bhutan to participate in the drafting of new legislation and in the setting up of a new court system.

The Vice-President was invited by the Council of Europe to assist with a series of seminars in Kosovo for the retraining of judges. He has been working closely with UNICEF to develop a range of projects in the Russian Federation. He has visited South Africa to promote the inclusion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in new legislation concerning children.

The Treasurer has been working closely with the authorities in Tunisia in promoting the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in spreading the message to other North African (French-speaking) countries.

The Secretary-General has been involved in a project in Viet Nam aimed at training lawyers and advocates in international legislation concerning children's rights.

Sponsorship of meetings and seminars

The Association was involved in the following seminars and conferences: Palermo, 1996, Minors and Justice; Turin, 1996, Mediation; Stockholm, 1996, The Sexual Exploitation of Children; Panama, 1996, The Ninth World Congress on

Family Law; Sion, Switzerland, 1996, The Rights of the Child; Naples, 1997, Criminal Organisations and the Exploitation of Children; Sion, Switzerland, 1997, Children and Work; Iguazú, 1997, The first MERCOSUR Congress on Juvenile and Family Justice; London, 1998, Family Violence; Sion, Switzerland, 1998, A Champion at Any Cost: The Rights of the Child in Sport; Buenos Aires, 1998, 15th Congress of the International Association Of Youth And Family Judges And Magistrates: Social Change and Youth: New Challenges Facing Justice, Politics and Society; Avignon, 1999, Foster Care in Europe; Chicago, 1999, A Juvenile Justice System for the 21st Century; Tunis, 1999, Nos enfants A L'Orée Du XXIème siècle; Sion, 1999, 100 Years of Juvenile Justice.

6. International Council on Social Welfare

General consultative status granted in 1972

The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) is a global alliance of civil society organizations promoting social welfare, social development and social justice. Its membership consists of global, regional, national and local organizations in more than 80 countries in every region of the world. It undertakes policy development, advocacy and capacity-building for its own members and other civil society organizations.

During the period 1996-1999 ICSW gave high priority to preparing for the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995 and then to pursuing implementation of the agreements made at the Summit. It also advocated specific implementation action at global United Nations meetings (especially of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development), at all regional United Nations meetings on Summit implementation in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and at other intergovernmental and non-governmental gatherings.

Since the Copenhagen Summit, ICSW has drawn on its extensive network of members and other non-governmental organizations to monitor progress with implementation, to develop proposals for achieving further progress, and to stimulate advocacy of those proposals. Its principal activities have included:

Activities

ICSW convened numerous global and regional civil society forums on Summit implementation involving more than 1,000 participants in 22 meetings worldwide. They include:

11 November 1999	CSO Forum on Social Development Durban, South Africa
26-28 October 1999	Central Asia Social Development Forum Baku, Azerbaijan
2-4 October 1999	South Asia Social Development Forum Kathmandu, Nepal

14-15 September 1999	Asia and Pacific Social Development Forum Sydney, Australia
10-12 September 1999	Pacific Islands Social Development Forum Sydney, Australia
16 May 1999	CSO Forum on Social Development New York
13-15 March 1999	East and Southern Africa Social Development Forum Nairobi, Kenya
1-2 December 1998	Central America Social Development Forum Guatemala City, Guatemala
8-9 November 1998	Arab States Social Development Forum Amman, Jordan
5-6 November 1998	European Social Development Forum Paris, France
9 February 1998	CSO Forum on Social Development New York
8 February 1998	CSO Forum on Social Development New York
27 November-1 December 1997	Francophone Africa Social Development Forum Tunis, Tunisia
12-13 November 1997	CSO Forum on Summit Follow-up Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
16-19 October 1997	European Regional Symposium Copenhagen, Denmark
8-13 September 1997	West Africa Social Development Forum Accra, Ghana
8-10 September 1997	Asia and the Pacific Social Development Forum Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
7-12 July 1997	East and Southern Africa Social Development Forum Harare, Zimbabwe
5 April 1997	Latin America and Caribbean Social Development Forum Sao Paulo, Brazil
24 February 1997	CSO Forum on Social Development New York

20-23 November 1996

Asia and Pacific Social Development Forum
Christchurch, New Zealand

13-17 May 1996

Southern Africa Social Development Forum
Gaborone, Botswana

In addition to these meetings on the follow-up to the Copenhagen Summit, ICSW attended the two United Nations Preparatory Committee meetings for the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development (New York, 17-28 May 1999 and 30 August-3 September 1999). ICSW made oral and written statements at both meetings and organized civil society briefings before and during the United Nations sessions.

ICSW attended the sessions of the Commission for Social Development during the period 1996-1999 and organized a series of civil society briefing meetings before and during the session meetings. ICSW regularly attended the sessions of the Economic and Social Council.

Publications

ICSW published articles on Summit implementation in its quarterly journal, *Social Development Review*; a series of policy papers and reports of the civil society forums, entitled *Copenhagen Papers*; a newsletter for civil society organizations, *Copenhagen + 5*, and a social development web site (www.icsw.org).

The following issues of *Social Development Review* were produced in 1996-1999:

Thematic supplement: Eradication of Poverty (August 1996)

Thematic supplement: Productive Employment (December 1996)

Thematic supplement: Social Integration (March 1997)

The Face of Poverty: Building a New Profile (June 1997)

Creating an Enabling Environment (September 1997)

Towards a Holistic Approach to Human Rights (December 1997)

Balancing Economic and Social Development (March 1998)

A Closer Look at Globalisation (June 1998)

Opening the Door to the Socially Excluded (September 1998)

A Social Safety Net for All? (December 1998)

Revealing a New Global Economy (March 1999)

Copenhagen +5: Reading the Signposts (June 1999)

Breaking the Chains of Debt (September 1999)

The WTO: the Whole World in its Hand (December 1999)

Social Development Review contains a regular two-page article prepared by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

The *Copenhagen Papers* on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development consisted of the following:

- No. 1. Implementing the Copenhagen Commitments (also available in Spanish)
- No. 2. Civil Society Reports on Poverty (New York, February 1999)
- No. 3. A European Regional Forum on Social Development (Paris, 5-6 November 1998) (also available in French)
- No. 4. An Arab States Forum on Social Development (Amman, 8-9 November 1998)
- No. 5. A Central American Regional Forum on Social Development (Guatemala City, 30 November-2 December 1998) (also available in Spanish)
- No. 6. An East and Southern African Regional Forum on Social Development (Mbagathi, Nairobi, 13-14 March 1999)
- No. 7. A Pacific Islands Regional Forum on Social Development (Sydney, 11-12 September 1999)
- No. 8. A South Asian Regional Forum on Social Development (Kathmandu, 2-4 October 1999)
- No. 9. A Central Asian and Trans-Caucasus Regional Forum on Social Development (Baku, 26-28 October 1999) (also available in Russian)

During 1999 ICSW produced three editions of the *Copenhagen +5 Newsletter* which provided information for civil society organizations about preparations for the United Nations five-year review of conference commitments.

7. International Council of Prison Medical Services

General consultative status granted in 1996

The International Council of Prison Medical Services (ICPMS) aims to promote good practice in all aspects of health care in prisons, worldwide, by facilitating international discourse, mutual support and the dissemination of information between health care professionals and international and national interested bodies. It therefore arranges conferences, organizes training, and provides guidelines and standards, based on United Nations standards; and gives advice on monitoring the quality of health care in prisons.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The ICPMS Vice-President to the United Nations attended the meetings of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as an observer on a regular basis from 1992, and then, after consultative status was granted (1996), as a Member. He participated in the Prison Health Project which included the publication of health care standards for jails and prisons. He was also active in meetings of the

Alliance's Working Party on Restorative Justice, whose recommendations were presented and adopted at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, in Vienna in April 2000.

The ICPMS Vice-President to the United Nations is also a member of the NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse, and regularly attends its meetings at United Nations Headquarters.

The Secretary-General of ICPMS attended an induction meeting for new non-governmental organizations in Geneva in 1998.

Activities

Reviews of health care services to prisons

In 1997 the Secretary-General and members of ICPMS undertook, at the request of the Council of Europe, reviews of the health care services to prisons of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Recommendations for reform were agreed with the governmental departments responsible for prisons and for health care. Progress has been monitored through regular meetings arranged by the Council of Europe. In addition, international contacts between prison health care personnel have been promoted and developed through the ICPMS network.

In 1999 a review by members of ICPMS was undertaken in Armenia. The recommendations from the review are being actioned by means of liaisons developed between the Council of Europe, ICPMS, and Prison Service International.

In 1999 a review by the Secretary-General and members of ICPMS was undertaken in Albania. The recommendations from the review are being jointly actioned by the Council of Europe and ICPMS.

In 1998 the Secretary-General of ICPMS undertook, at the request of the British Embassy in Caracas, a review of the health care services to prisons in Venezuela.

The treasurer of ICPMS undertook reviews of the prison systems of Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The treasurer of ICPMS undertook a review of the Juvenile Re-educational Institutions in El Salvador.

Study visits

The Secretary-General and members of ICPMS arranged study visits for prison health care staff from Eastern European countries to the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark.

Training course

A training course, the first of its kind ever held, was organized by the Secretary-General of ICPMS and delivered to prison staff in Albania in 1998, a year prior to the health care review.

Congress on Violence

In March 1998 ICPMS joined with the International Conference on the Treatment of Sex Offenders, the World Psychiatric Association, the World Legal Medical Association, the Asociación Latinamericana de Medicina Legal y Deontología Médica, and Asociación Mundial de Sexología in organizing a World Congress in Caracas, Venezuela, on the theme of violence. The Congress, attended by some 560 delegates, closed with the issue of the Declaration of Venezuela. All aspects of violence, including those perpetrated by Governments, societies, and individuals, were covered at the Congress. Much emphasis was placed on reducing violence in society by respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and on reducing violence in prisons, which are particularly violent places in some parts of the world, by respecting the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners. The proceedings of the Congress have been published.

8. International Federation of Human Rights

Special consultative status granted in 1952

The International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR) was founded in 1922. Its objective, since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, has been to work for the concrete implementation of the Declaration. During the past 50 years, as a non-governmental organization recognized by the United Nations since 1952, it has greatly expanded its activities, sending missions to many countries, systematizing legal cooperation and training programmes with local partners in recent years and working with international institutions. At its thirty-third congress, held in Dakar from 20 to 23 November 1997, the Federation's international network was greatly expanded and currently comprises 105 member organizations, including 64 affiliates and 41 corresponding leagues in 86 countries. A list of those organizations appears in the annex to this report.

Some of the themes which IFHR considered to be priorities for action during the period under review and which guided its work within the United Nations system are: combating impunity, implementing economic and social rights, guaranteeing women's rights as fundamental human rights and protecting human rights defenders.

The Federation's permanent delegations to the United Nations in Geneva and New York have allowed for daily monitoring of its activities relating to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

IFHR has continued to participate actively in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions) and of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (forty-eighth to fifty-first sessions), and in the working groups created by those bodies. During the sessions, the IFHR delegation was made up of representatives of its member organizations and officials

and deputies of its leadership bodies. IFHR seeks to facilitate access by national human rights organizations to the work of those bodies.

Up to 1997, the sessions of the Commission and the subcommission provided important informational and training opportunities for officials of the Federation's member organizations, who are active at the field level. Accordingly, training seminars were also organized. Their purpose was to promote dialogue and cooperation between human rights defenders and representatives of States and to develop the best possible cooperation between non-governmental organizations in the field and the bodies and procedures of the United Nations.

IFHR also contributed to United Nations efforts undertaken within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, particularly the plan to create a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system, and the draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights. IFHR participated in the sessions of the Subcommission's Working Group on Indigenous Peoples and those of the Commission's working group on a draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights.

In addition, IFHR made a substantial contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, mainly through written statements and a number of oral statements under different agenda items, with a view to facilitating the work of those bodies.

Participation in sessions of the treaty bodies

The Federation participated in the sessions of the following treaty bodies: Human Rights Committee, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee against Torture. During those sessions it provided the expert members with potentially useful information for their consideration of the periodic reports of States parties. It also made written and oral statements at several sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Between October 1998 and October 1999, IFHR implemented a training programme for representatives of its member organizations that enabled them to contribute to the work of some sessions and familiarized them with the treaty monitoring system.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

The Federation now has formal consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In that capacity, under review, particularly in 1998, it contributed to the preparation of the draft programme and budget for 2000-2001.

In addition, the Federation has been admitted to the International Labour Organization Special List of non-governmental organizations and, in that capacity, is a participant in the International Labour Conference.

Other activities

Actions to promote the implementation of United Nations resolutions

During the period under review, IFHR cooperated on a regular basis with the mechanisms created by United Nations resolutions, particularly the thematic and geographic special rapporteurs, by providing them with information relevant to the discharge of their mandate.

IFHR participated in the standard-setting working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, particularly the working group on a draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights, the working group on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

IFHR participated in the work of the Subcommission's Working Group on Minorities and, in response to the appeal made by the Working Group, contacted its 105 affiliate leagues throughout the world to encourage them to contribute to the work of the Working Group's fourth session in May 1998 on the theme of minority rights in education.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples of the Commission and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

Consultations and cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat

IFHR met several times with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

It provided information on a regular basis to the special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights through their assistants at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Documents prepared at the request of the Secretary-General

IFHR provided information on various issues as requested by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

IFHR also contributed information on a regular basis for the preparation of various studies undertaken by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

9. Isis International

Special consultative status granted in 1996

Isis International (Santiago) is an international non-governmental organization created in 1974 in response to a need expressed by women from different countries for a women's information and communications service. The office in Santiago, Chile, was opened in 1984. Isis International promotes networking, communication and cooperation among women and groups working for women's empowerment and full participation in development. It provides communication channels, support, training and services in the following programme areas: resource centre and information, communications, health, violence against women, advocacy and campaigns, networking services and skills training. The Isis International network includes thousands of individuals, women's groups, non-governmental organizations, academic centres, intermediate development agencies, policy makers and government ministries, among others.

Dissemination and implementation of United Nations resolutions

During the four years the following Isis International publications have included important information on different United Nations resolutions and how they have been implemented:

(a) *Boletín*, a quarterly, Spanish newsletter (with an English summary) of the Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Network on Domestic and Sexual Violence. Issues 11-25 were published from 1996 to 1999. Each issue includes information on the PAHO Women, Health and Development Programme study on the critical path for women affected by family violence. Other information covered included the following: the CEDAW Optional Protocol; how women's human rights have been included in the United Nations international conferences; the Call to Action to demand ratification and/or implementation of the Inter-American Convention for the Prevention, Sanction and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belem do Pará Convention) and the results of the Call to Action; an analysis of the Convention; evaluation of the Beijing Platform for Action at the forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women; United Nations response to sexual violence against women during armed conflicts from 1969 to 1999;

(b) *Hojas de datos*: fact sheets that present comparative data in specific areas. Fact sheet No. 5 included information on the major agreements reached at the Fourth World Conference on Women concerning the issue of violence against women, women and armed conflicts, and the human rights of women; No. 6 reprinted the full text of the Belem do Pará Convention in English and Spanish, with a list, provided by the OAS Inter-American Commission on Women, of nations which had ratified the Convention by 17 September 1996; No. 7 provided a summary of the regional report from Latin America and the Caribbean on trafficking in women and forced work which was included in the report that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women presented at the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland;

(c) *Perspectivas*, a 24-page dossier printed quarterly, provides systematized, comparative and up-to-date information on specific topics. It represents another

facet of the follow-up to the Platform for Action approved by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. It is intended as a resource for organized women as well as for those who bear responsibility for implementing the Beijing agreements. Many of the topics covered during this period are in relation to the 12 areas of critical concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. They include Work: Where Are the Women?; Citizenship: Beyond the Vote; Women in the Media; Migrants; and Poverty, among others;

(d) *Agenda Salud*, an eight-page information dossier in Spanish on specific health issues. Issue No. 9, *Child Mothers*, is based on papers presented at the Workshop on Adolescent Pregnancy organized by UNICEF's Latin American and Caribbean Regional Office in Jamaica in November 1997. It was distributed along with the Plan for Action on Adolescent Pregnancy and Early Parenthood which resulted from UNICEF's workshop. Issue No. 10, *Sexuality and Reproduction in Poverty*, includes part of the paper, "Poverty and gender inequity: health and sexual and reproductive rights in Latin America and the Caribbean", presented at the seventh Regional Conference on Integrating Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in November 1997, and was prepared with the support of the Latin American and Caribbean Division of UNFPA;

(e) *Beijing '95 Platform: A Tool for Women's Action*, a 40-page publication containing a summary of the major agreements reached by the Platform for Action in an accessible language. Approximately 11,000 copies were produced in Spanish and 2,000 in Portuguese.

Participation in and joint sponsorship of United Nations conferences, meetings and seminars

(a) Participation in the Continental Meeting on Intra Family Violence (Mexico City, 28-30 October 1996), convened by the Grupo Plural Pro Víctimas, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF, PAHO and the Attorney General of the Federal District of Mexico;

(b) Co-sponsorship of the Conference on Domestic Violence in the Americas (Washington, D.C., 20-21 October 1997), together with PAHO, the Women's Inter-American Committee (CIM-OAS) and the Institute for Civil Society, organized by the Inter-American Development Bank;

(c) Participation in the Seventh Regional Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile, 19-21 November 1997), organized by ECLAC;

(d) Participation in events related to the Commission on the Status of Women's review of sections D, E, and I of the Beijing Platform for Action. The session also followed discussion on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (New York, March 1988);

(e) Participation in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Women's Human Rights in the Context of Trafficking and Migration (Santo Domingo, June 1988), organized by INSTRAW, the Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women, the University of Puerto Rico Women's Studies project and the Centro de Orientación Integral of the Dominican Republic;

(f) Participation in the first meeting of the Task Force on Gender Issues of the Telecommunications Development Bureau (Geneva, Switzerland, 1-2 September 1998);

(g) Participation in the Meeting on Violence against Women and Girls, organized by UNICEF and UNIFEM (Geneva, Switzerland, October 1988);

(h) Participation in the First Latin American and Caribbean Journalists Meeting on Population and Reproductive Health (Cancun, Mexico, 3-5 December 1998), convened by UNFPA, the National Population Council of Mexico and Women's Communication and Information;

(i) Participation in the First Virtual Health Library Regional Coordination Meeting (Washington, D.C., 30 November-3 December 1999), organized by PAHO/BIREME as part of the discussions to lay the groundwork for a joint project involving Isis International in the Virtual Health Library that PAHO/BIREME put online in 1998. Isis International is to provide material on gender and health it has processed since 1984;

(j) Participation in the regional consultation to civil society: The United Nations in the XXI Century. A Vision from Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile, 1-2 September 1999), organized by ECLAC to discuss future visions of the United Nations for the new millennium in view of the Millennium Summit.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Isis International was invited to join the Inter-Agency Advisory Group of Symposium 2000: Gender Violence, Health and Rights in the Americas. The Symposium is part of an international effort to expand the role of the sector in multisector strategies to address gender violence against women and girls. Sponsored by PAHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNAIDS, in partnership with CIM/OAS, the Centre for Research in Women's Health, the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, Isis International (Santiago) and the Latin American and Caribbean Network against Sexual and Domestic Violence, it is part of the United Nations Inter-Agency Campaign against Violence against Women. In 1999, Isis International (Santiago) was asked to collaborate in the selection of best practices and to help plan and organize the event.

Isis International has been a member of the Task Force on Gender Issues of the Telecommunications Development Bureau (ITU) since 1998.

10. Lutheran World Federation

Special consultative status granted in 1952

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a communion of 124 (as compared to 114 in 1984) Lutheran member churches on six continents. LWF serves to further the united witness, self-understanding and communion of its member churches. It serves to further Christian service (diakonia), alleviation of human need, promotion of peace and human rights, social and economic justice, care for God's creation and sharing of resources.

The United Nations has been a primary partner of LWF since its founding in 1947. LWF is authorized to serve as an international Lutheran agency which can be recognized by relevant United Nations agencies as well as by governmental, intergovernmental and voluntary organizations, to represent the member churches before such agencies, and to enter into such agreements with them as will facilitate LWF's work.

LWF maintains close contact on an ongoing basis with a large number of United Nations agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). LWF also works with the United Nations Secretariat's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of Communication and Public Information (OCPI).

In cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local churches, LWF has long been deeply involved in refugee assistance programmes, especially in Africa, Asia and Central America. This concern is intimately linked to the commitment of LWF to uphold the human rights of all people. In harmony with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, LWF understands human rights to include not only the rights of individuals to freedom of speech, religion, the press and assembly but also the rights to food, development, self-determination and participation in political and social life. The relationship between human rights violations and refugee migration has long been understood by LWF and its member churches.

LWF responds to global emergencies as its means allow and upon request from its member churches, field offices, ecumenical partners or national Governments. Assistance is provided to victims of both natural disasters and complex emergencies. LWF is a member of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response and in that capacity participates in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which serves as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of policy issues relating to humanitarian assistance and for formulating coherent and timely responses to major and complex emergencies. In the field, LWF and other non-governmental organizations often form emergency groups on a nationwide basis to provide coordination of their response.

There has been close contact with the office of the Secretary-General and the Department of Political Affairs with respect to promoting peace in Central America. On various occasions, LWF has also formally presented documented issues of human rights concern to the Commission on Human Rights.

LWF is active within the community of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council and is a member of the board of CONGO. Its representatives serve on the steering committees and subgroups of the NGO Committees on Human Rights, Southern Africa, Sustainable Development and Status of Women (New York and Geneva). LWF was active in the planning for, and participated in, the NGO forums that preceded or paralleled the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995).

Some selected examples of cooperation between LWF and the United Nations during the 1994-1997 quadrennium include:

- (a) Sponsorship of meetings related to the Guatemala peace process involving the civil sector and the political dialogue in 1994 and 1995;
- (b) Response to critical emergencies in Africa — e.g., Liberia, Sudan, and the Great Lakes region;
- (c) Advocacy for and assistance in the repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation of Mozambican and Angolan returnees;
- (d) Repatriation of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico;
- (e) Election monitoring in Liberia in 1997, in cooperation with UNOMIL;
- (f) Participation in the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the World Food Summit (1996);
- (g) Humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, particularly the operation of the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem and a related village health clinic programme;
- (h) Advocacy for the "Ottawa process" leading to the international Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and for its implementation;
- (i) Involvement in the campaign to establish an International Criminal Court;
- (j) Cooperation with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service in the publication and distribution of two books on women and development;
- (k) Attendance at annual sessions of the Economic and Social Council, its committees, commissions and subcommissions (Status of Women, Sustainable Development, and Human Rights); the UNHCR Executive Committee; preparatory committees for the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women; and at selected meetings of the General Assembly and its committees; and meetings called by other United Nations organs, as well as its subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies.

11. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

Special consultative status granted in 1996

In its first four-year period of special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights used its status to make appropriate contributions to the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Preparatory Conference and the Beijing Plus Five Conference, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the United Nations diplomatic conference in Rome to create an international criminal court.

Aims and purposes

Since its incorporation in 1983, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights has been working to promote and protect internationally recognized human rights.

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is committed to enabling individuals and communities to realize their fundamental human rights and responsibilities through programmes and projects that integrate human rights fact-finding, advocacy, and education. The organization works locally, nationally, and internationally on human rights issues affecting women, children, refugees and immigrants. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights has four main programme areas. The Children's Human Rights Program is developing a global model to promote the child's inherent right to survive. It sponsors the "One School at a Time" initiative to fund schools for poor children as an alternative to child labour. The Women's Human Rights Program conducts international training programmes on legal and practical approaches to eliminate domestic violence and holds an annual International Women's Day conference to increase local and national understanding of international human rights standards regarding women. The International Women's Day event is based on the 12 critical areas of concern outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Refugee and Immigrant Program serves refugees and asylum-seekers through legal representation, education, and mobilization of communities against anti-immigrant bias. The Partners in Human Rights Education Program offers primary and secondary education about human rights and specifically about the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to tens of thousands of students in the midwest region of the United States. The Partners Program led a campaign to educate the public about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the event of its fiftieth anniversary in 1998.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

In the period 1996-2000, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights attended several annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and every session of the Subcommission. Representatives of the organization submitted a number of written and oral statements at those meetings, particularly on women's human rights and the role of transnational corporations and human rights. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights contributed to the working paper prepared by Mr. David Weissbrodt for submission at the Subcommission's 2000 session regarding principles relating to the human rights conduct of companies. The Women's Human Rights Program provided regular information to the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. Representatives of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights attended the Preparatory Commission meeting to the Beijing Plus Five Conference (Geneva, January 2000) and the Beijing Plus Five Conference (New York, June 2000). Women's Program representatives also attended the Commission on the Status of Women session in March 2000. The organization focused its work at these women's conferences on the issue of domestic violence as a human rights violation. A representative of the organization chaired the legal working group of the drafting conference for a manual on the effective investigation and documentation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Istanbul Protocol), which has been favourably received by the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

A representative of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights attended the United Nations diplomatic conference to create an international criminal court (Rome, 1998). The representative worked with the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court to monitor drafting sessions and encourage Governments to support the creation of the court. The Refugee and Immigrant Program receives funding from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to support its work in providing legal representation to torture victims and their families. In addition, the Washington office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees frequently provides technical assistance to volunteer attorneys of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights who represent asylum applicants. The Children's Human Rights Program disseminates UNICEF materials regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child and promotes United States ratification of that treaty. The Children's Program has also provided background information to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Other relevant activities

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is a leader in human rights education and promotion of the standards and mechanisms of the United Nations. Staff and volunteers of the organization promote the human rights activities of the United Nations by teaching in classrooms, speaking at events and conferences in universities, churches, and other civic forums, and by drawing the attention of the media to these issues.